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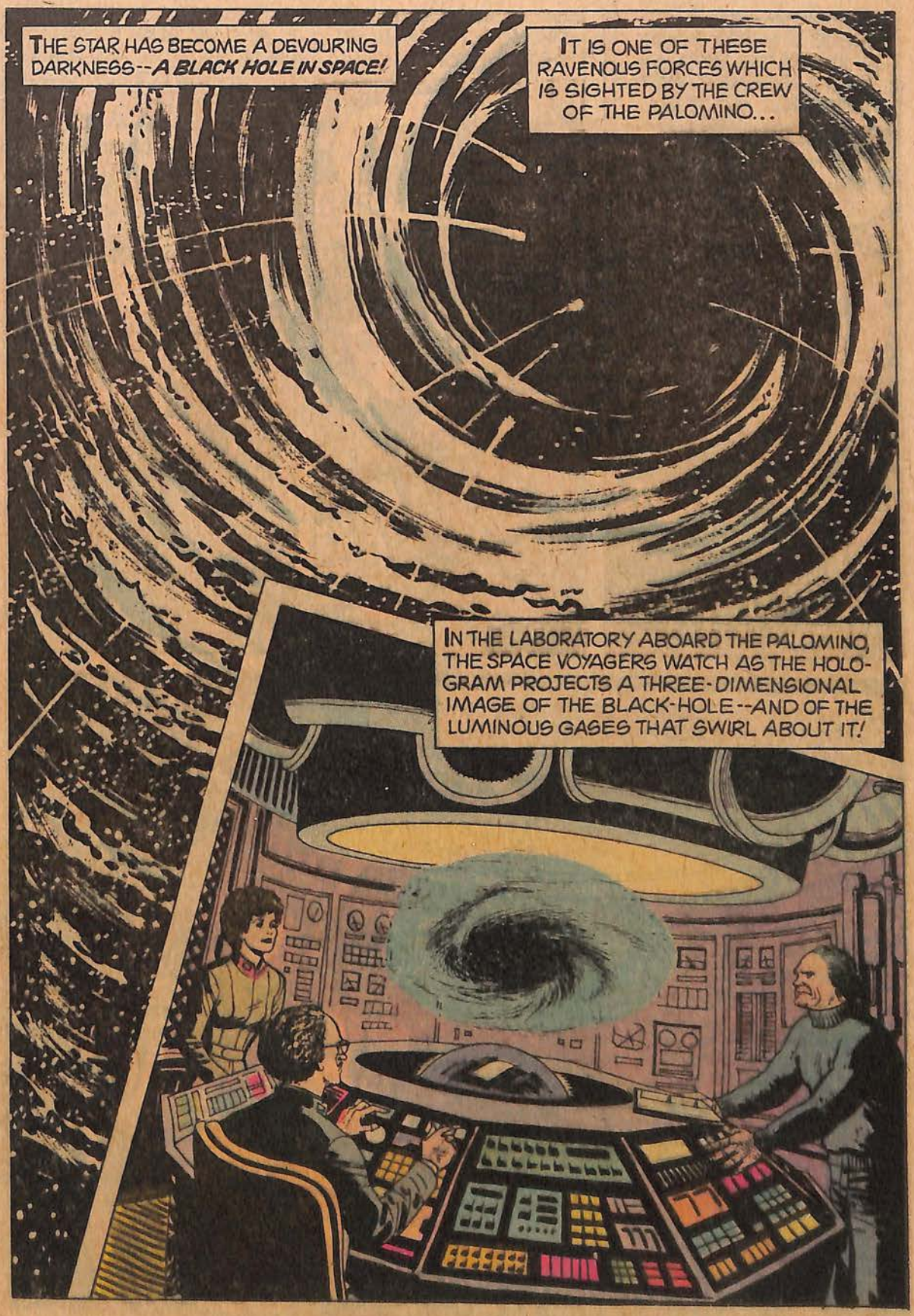
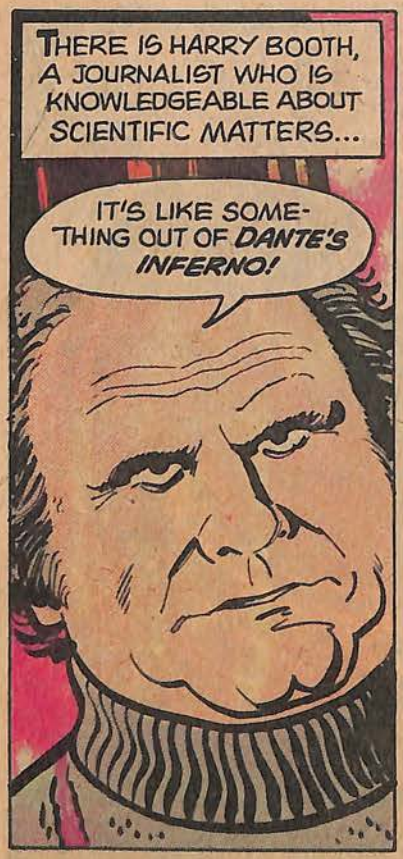
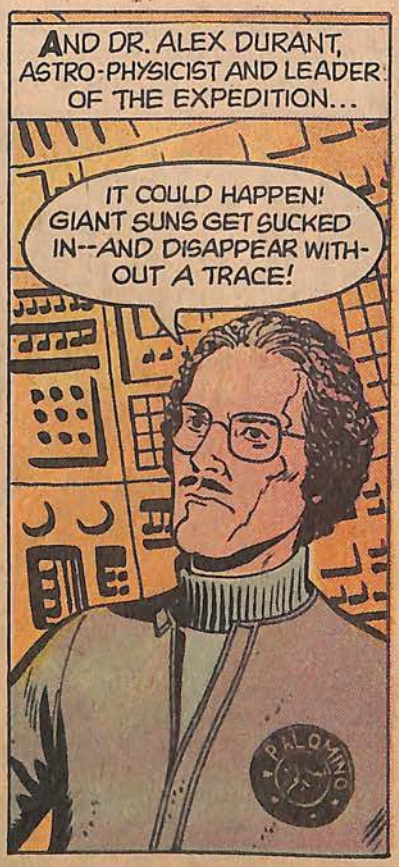
IN OUR GALAXY, THERE ARE TRILLIONS OF STARS. MOST ARE UNNAMED--AT LEAST BY US. AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT SOME OF THESE STARS ARE DYING. SOME CONSUME THEMSELVES. OTHERS EXPLODE, BLOWING THEMSELVES TO PIECES. STILL OTHERS CONTRACT AND DRAW IN UPON THEMSELVES.
WHEN A DYING STAR CONTRACTS, THE MATTER OF WHICH IT IS MADE IS TREMENDOUSLY COMPRESSED. THE STAR SHRINKS WITHOUT LIMIT, AND ITS SURFACE GRAVITY RISES. GASES, METEORS AND EVEN OTHER STARS ARE SWEPT INTO ITS CORE, AND NOTHING EVER AGAIN ESCAPES INTO OUR UNIVERSE--NOT EVEN LIGHT!


THE STAR HAS BECOME A DEVOURING DARKNESS--A BLACK HOLE IN SPACE!
IT IS ONE OF THESE RAVENOUS FORCES WHICH IS SIGHTED BY THE CREW OF THE PALOMINO...
IN THE LABORATORY ABOARD THE PALOMINO, THE SPACE VOYAGERS WATCH AS THE HOLOGRAM PROJECTS A THREE-DIMENSIONAL IMAGE OF THE BLACK-HOLE--AND OF THE LUMINOUS GASES THAT SWIRL ABOUT IT!

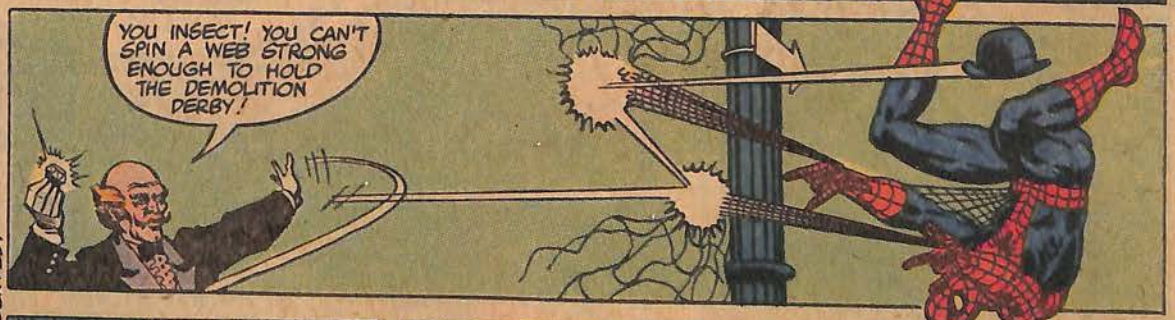





IN THE CONTROL COCKPIT OF THE SHIP, COMMAND PILOT DAN HOLLAND AND FIRST OFFICER CHARLES PIZER ARE AWED BY THE SPECTACLE...

*A BLACK HOLE!* THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE, CHARLIE!

874467A
LFT29FRONT
CHK&THRUSTER



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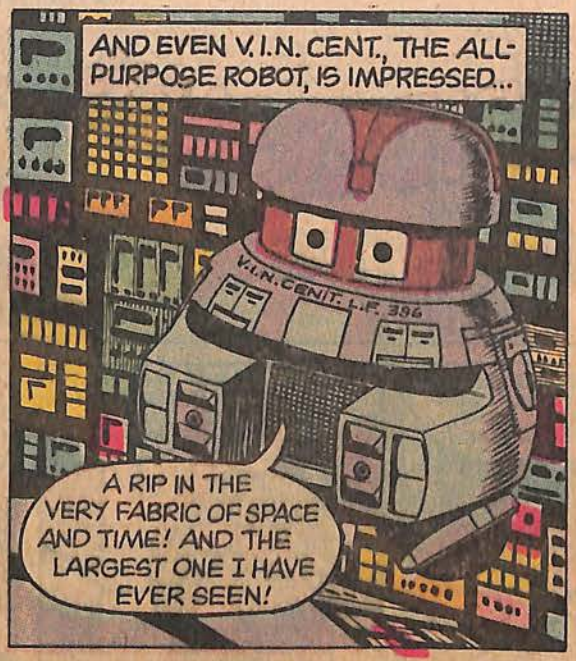
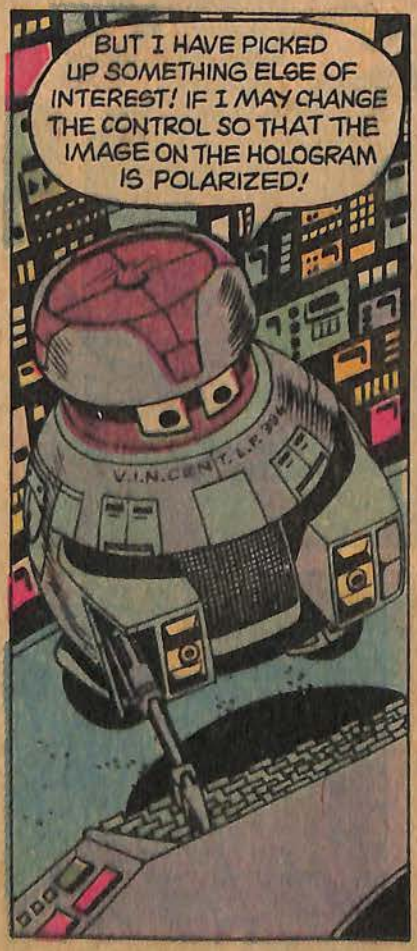
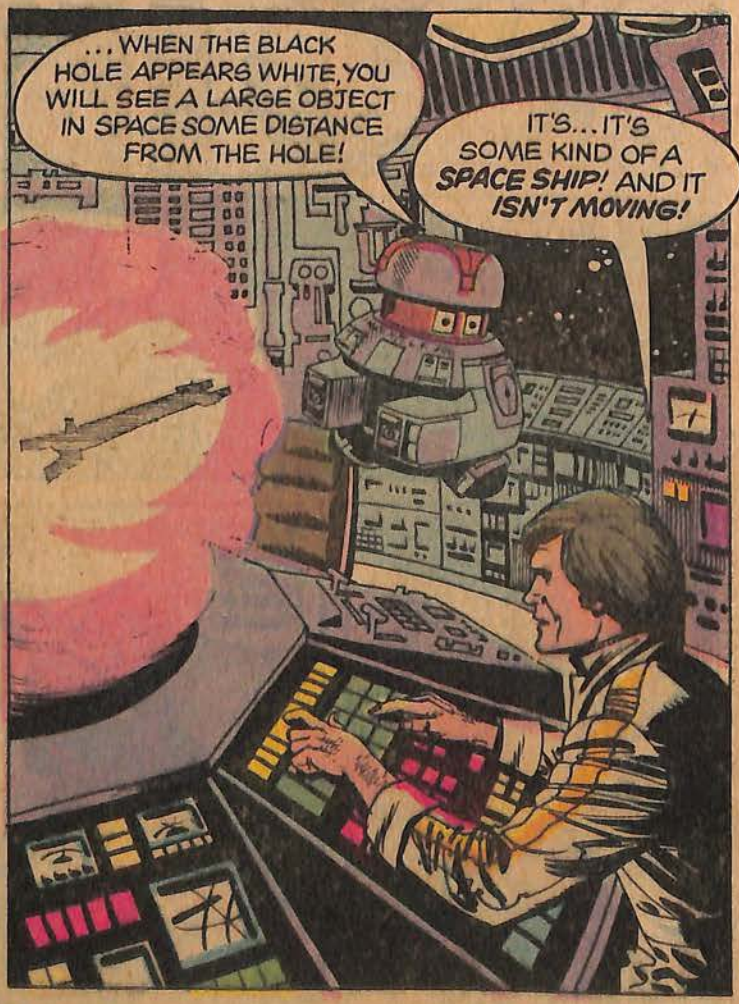
DAN HOLLAND IS EXCITED...
IT'S A REAL MONSTER, ISN'T IT?


AND EVEN V.I.N. CENT., THE ALL-PURPOSE ROBOT, IS IMPRESSED...
V.I.N. CENT. L.F. 396
A RIP IN THE VERY FABRIC OF SPACE AND TIME! AND THE LARGEST ONE I HAVE EVER SEEN!


BUT I HAVE PICKED UP SOMETHING ELSE OF INTEREST! IF I MAY CHANGE THE CONTROL SO THAT THE IMAGE ON THE HOLOGRAM IS POLARIZED!
V.I.N.CENT. L.F.


...WHEN THE BLACK HOLE APPEARS WHITE, YOU WILL SEE A LARGE OBJECT IN SPACE SOME DISTANCE FROM THE HOLE!
IT'S... IT'S SOME KIND OF A SPACE SHIP! AND IT ISN'T MOVING!

IN THE LABORATORY THERE IS CONSTERNATION AT THE SIGHT OF THE POLARIZED IMAGE WITH THE SPACECRAFT POISED SO PRECARIOUSLY AT THE EDGE OF CHAOS...

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM? NO ONE'S MADE A SHIP THAT BIG FOR YEARS! AND HOW CAN IT STAY SO CLOSE TO A BLACK HOLE AND NOT GET SUCKED IN?

A SPACE SHIP? OUT HERE? AHEAD OF US?

COULD IT BE ALIENS?

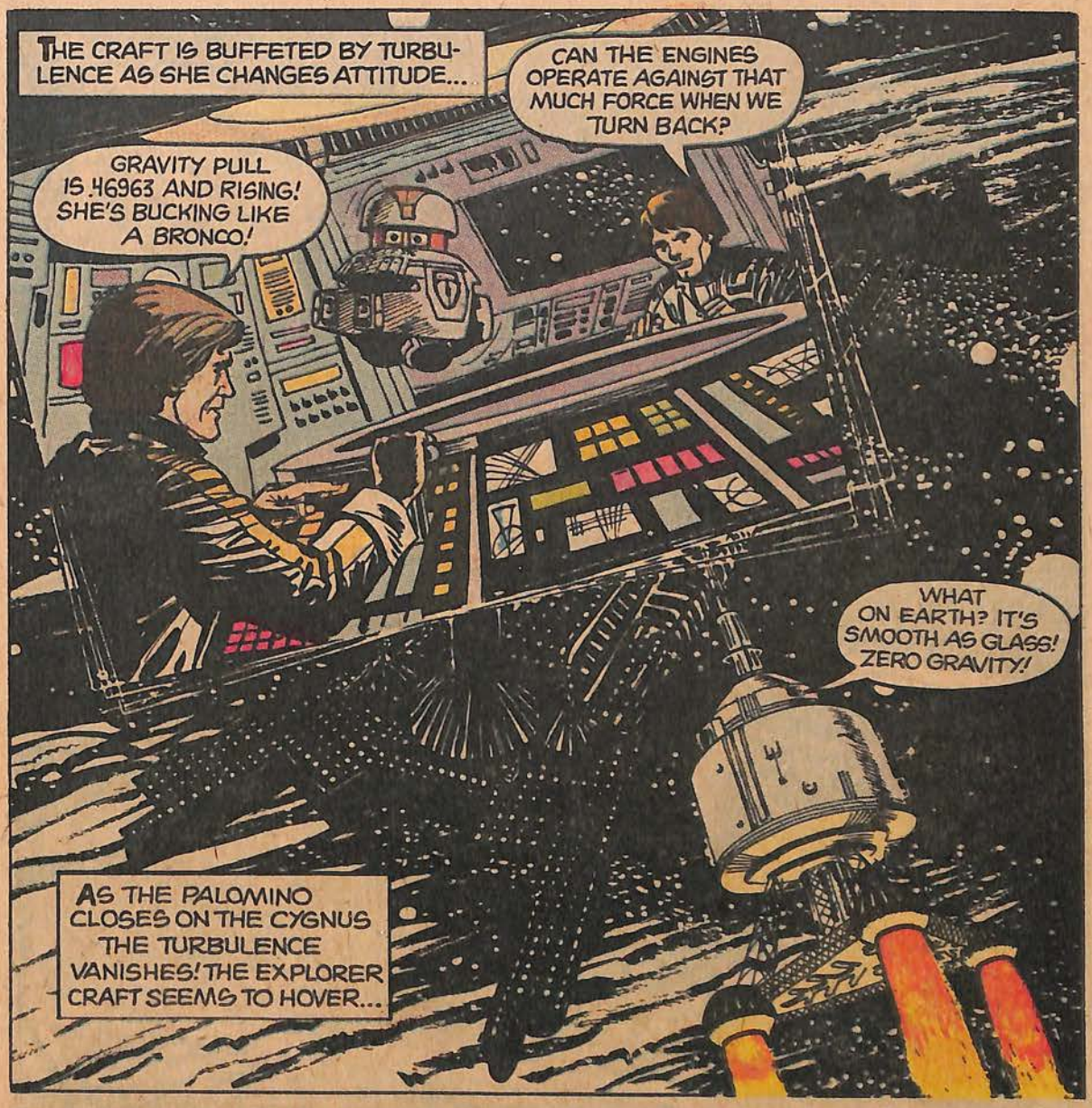
V.I.N. CENT. HEARS KATE'S REMARKS ON THE COMMUNICATOR, AND HE QUICKLY REASSURES HER...

NOT ALIENS, DR. KATE! OUR COMPUTERIZED PRINT-OUT TELLS US THAT THAT IS U.S. SPACE PROBE ONE! THE *CYGNUS!*

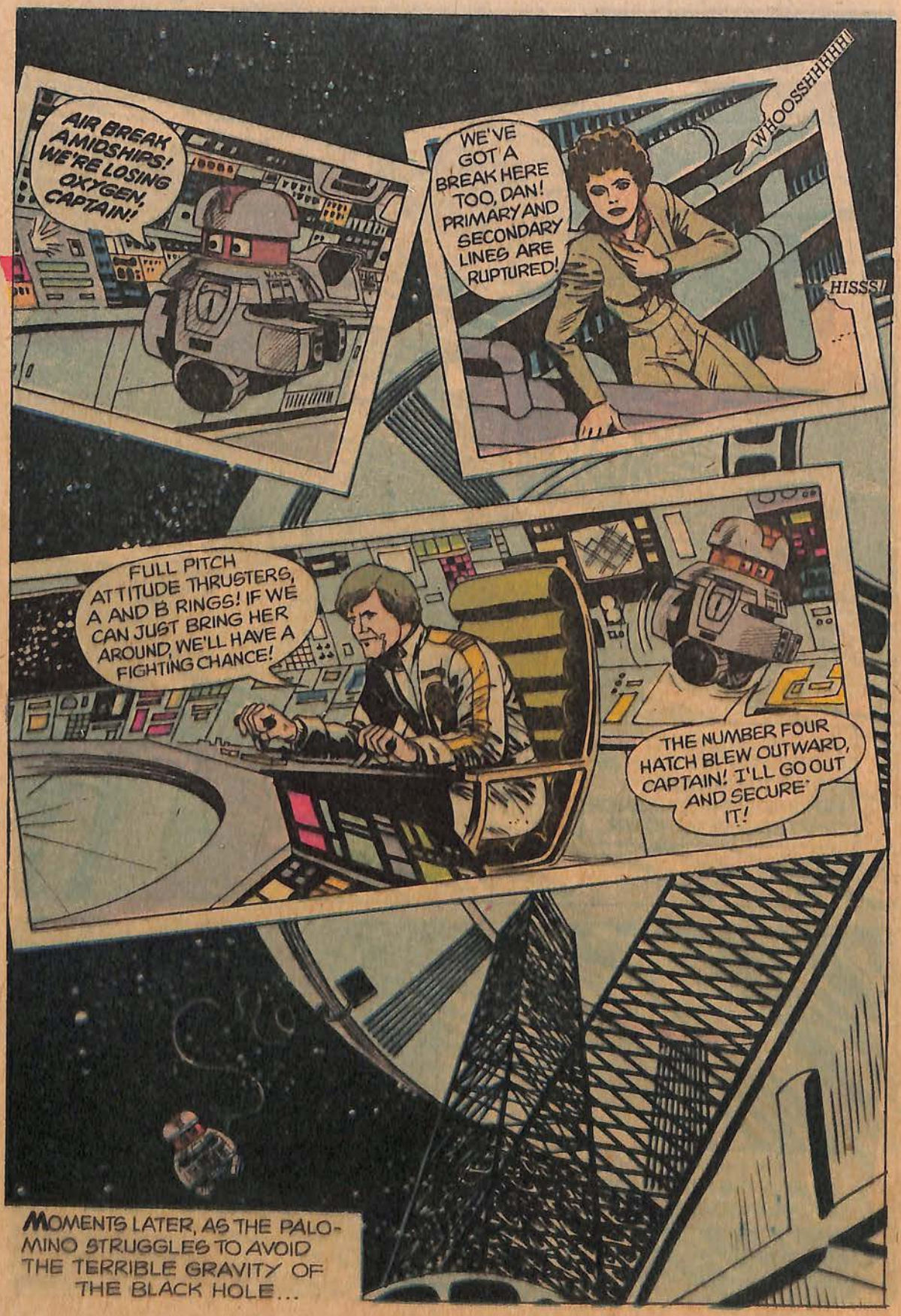
DR. KATE, WASN'T THE CYGNUS THE SHIP YOUR FATHER WAS ON?

YES! YES! IT WAS! THEY WERE EXPLORING, JUST AS WE ARE, AND WHEN THEY WERE RECALLED TO EARTH THEY... THEY JUST VANISHED!

THE CYGNUS! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! WHY SHE'S...SHE'S BECOME A LEGEND!
AND HANS REINHARDT, HER COMMANDER--HE'S A LEGEND, TOO! WE'RE GOING ABOARD, AREN'T WE? THIS IS THE STORY OF A LIFETIME!
FULL POWER ON THE THRUSTERS, V.I.N. CENT.! IF WE CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH, WE CAN GO ABOARD ON TETHERS!
COULD THERE BE ANYONE ABOARD? ARE YOU PICKING UP ANYTHING ON THE SENSORS, CHARLIE?
NEGATIVE! IT MUST BE A GHOST SHIP! LIKE THE FLYING DUTCHMAN!
THE DANGER OF VENTURING TOO NEAR THE BLACK HOLE IS OBVIOUS, BUT THE CREW ABOARD THE PALOMINO CANNOT IGNORE THE RIDDLE OF THE CYGNUS! HOLLAND BRINGS THE EXPLORER CRAFT AROUND ON A COURSE TOWARD THE GIANT SPACE SHIP...


THE CRAFT IS BUFFETED BY TURBULENCE AS SHE CHANGES ATTITUDE...
CAN THE ENGINES OPERATE AGAINST THAT MUCH FORCE WHEN WE TURN BACK?
GRAVITY PULL IS .46963 AND RISING! SHE'S BUCKING LIKE A BRONCO!
WHAT ON EARTH? IT'S SMOOTH AS GLASS! ZERO GRAVITY!
AS THE PALOMINO CLOSES ON THE CYGNUS THE TURBULENCE VANISHES! THE EXPLORER CRAFT SEEMS TO HOVER...

IT'S GOT US! QUICK! A HUNDRED PERCENT ON ROLL-JET QUADS!
BUT ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CYGNUS, THE PALOMINO STARTS TO FALL AGAIN TOWARD THE BLACK HOLE...


AIR BREAK AMIDSHIPS! WE'RE LOSING OXYGEN, CAPTAIN!
WE'VE GOT A BREAK HERE TOO, DAN! PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LINES ARE RUPTURED!
WHOOSSHHHHH!
HISSS!
FULL PITCH ATTITUDE THRUSTERS, A AND B RINGS! IF WE CAN JUST BRING HER AROUND, WE'LL HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE!
THE NUMBER FOUR HATCH BLEW OUTWARD, CAPTAIN! I'LL GO OUT AND SECURE IT!
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE PALOMINO STRUGGLES TO AVOID THE TERRIBLE GRAVITY OF THE BLACK HOLE...

BUT THE INSTANT THE ROBOT LEAVES THE EXPLORER CRAFT, COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONTROL COCKPIT IS CUT OFF...
V.I.N. CENT., COME IN! V.I.N. CENT., DO YOU READ ME? COME IN, V.I.N. CENT.!
IT'S NO USE, CHARLIE! THERE'S TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE OUTSIDE! HE'S PROGRAMMED TO RESPOND TO KATE WITH ESP! MAYBE THAT WILL WORK!
KATE, WOULD YOU SEE IF YOU CAN GET THROUGH TO V.I.N. CENT.? WE AREN'T GETTING ANY SIGNALS FROM HIM!
KATE CONCENTRATES, AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY SHE REACHES V.I.N. CENT., WHO IS PROPELLING HIMSELF THROUGH THE DARKNESS BENEATH THE PALOMINO...
V.I.N. CENT.'S OKAY, DAN! HE'S SECURED THE HATCH AND... AND...
DAN! HIS TETHER'S BROKEN!

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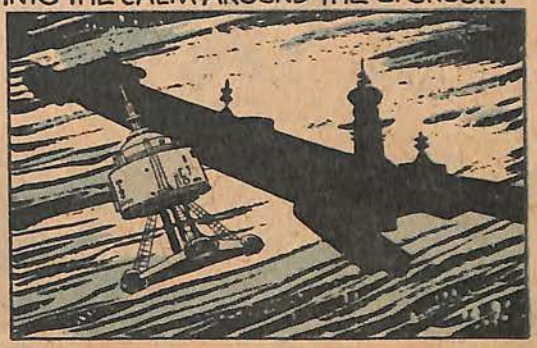
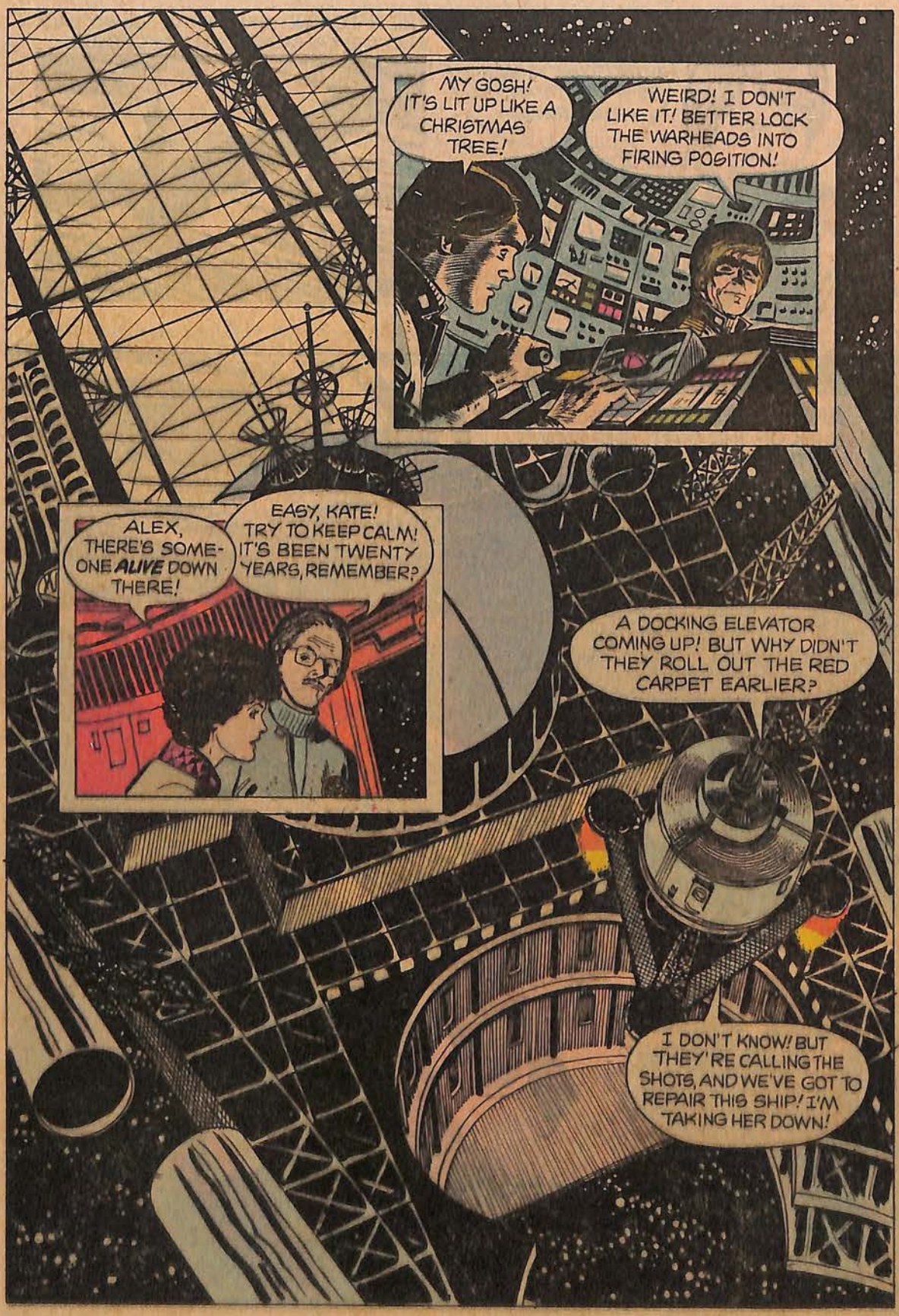
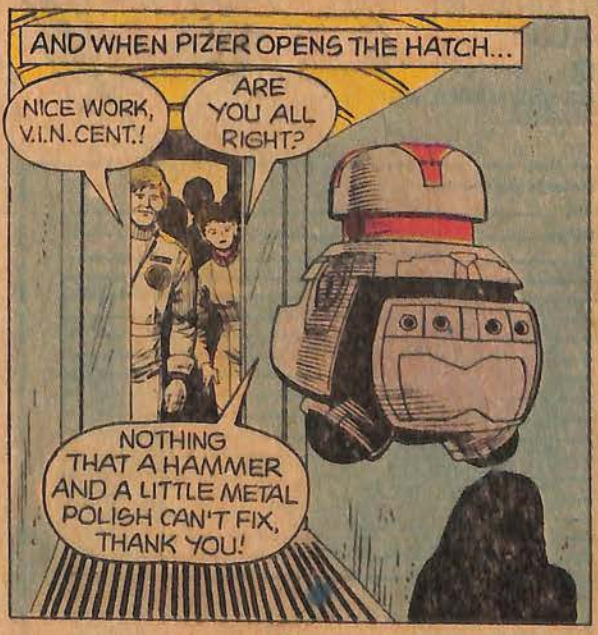
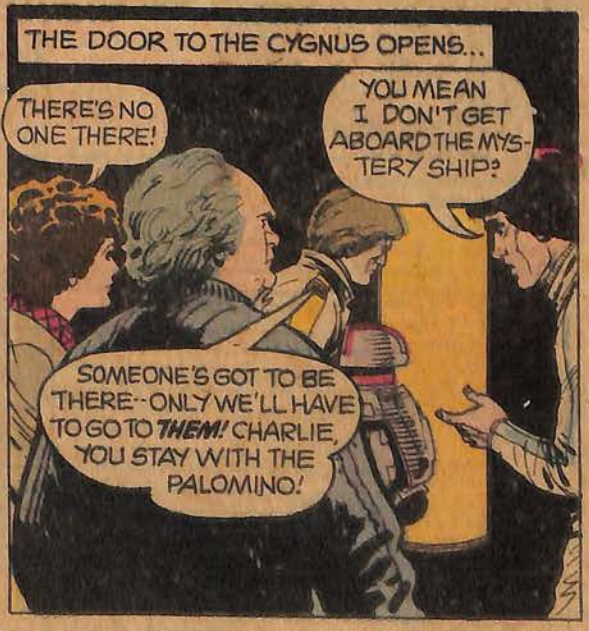
THE PALOMINO SHUDDERED ITS WAY BACK INTO THE CALM AROUND THE CYGNUS...




MY GOSH! IT'S LIT UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE!
WEIRD! I DON'T LIKE IT! BETTER LOCK THE WARHEADS INTO FIRING POSITION!
ALEX, THERE'S SOMEONE ALIVE DOWN THERE!
EASY, KATE! TRY TO KEEP CALM! IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS, REMEMBER?
A DOCKING ELEVATOR COMING UP! BUT WHY DIDN'T THEY ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET EARLIER?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT THEY'RE CALLING THE SHOTS, AND WE'VE GOT TO REPAIR THIS SHIP! I'M TAKING HER DOWN!

THE PALOMINO MANEUVERS INTO PLACE AT THE DOCK GRID OF THE CYGNUS! V.I.N. CENT. JETS INTO THE AIRLOCK WHICH MOVES OUT TOWARD THE HATCH OF THE PALOMINO...



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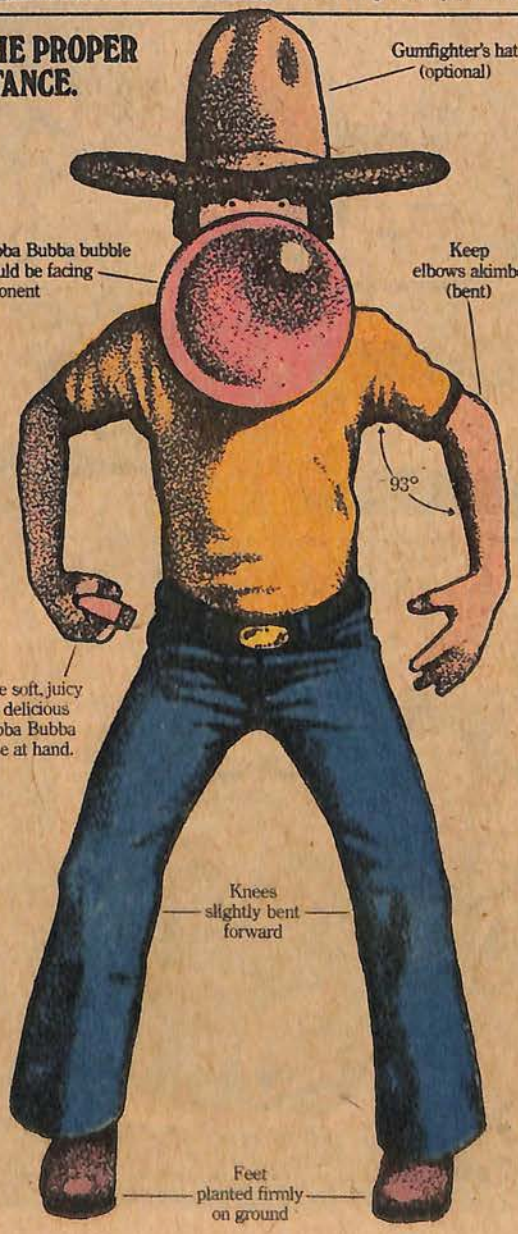
## THE PROPER STANCE.

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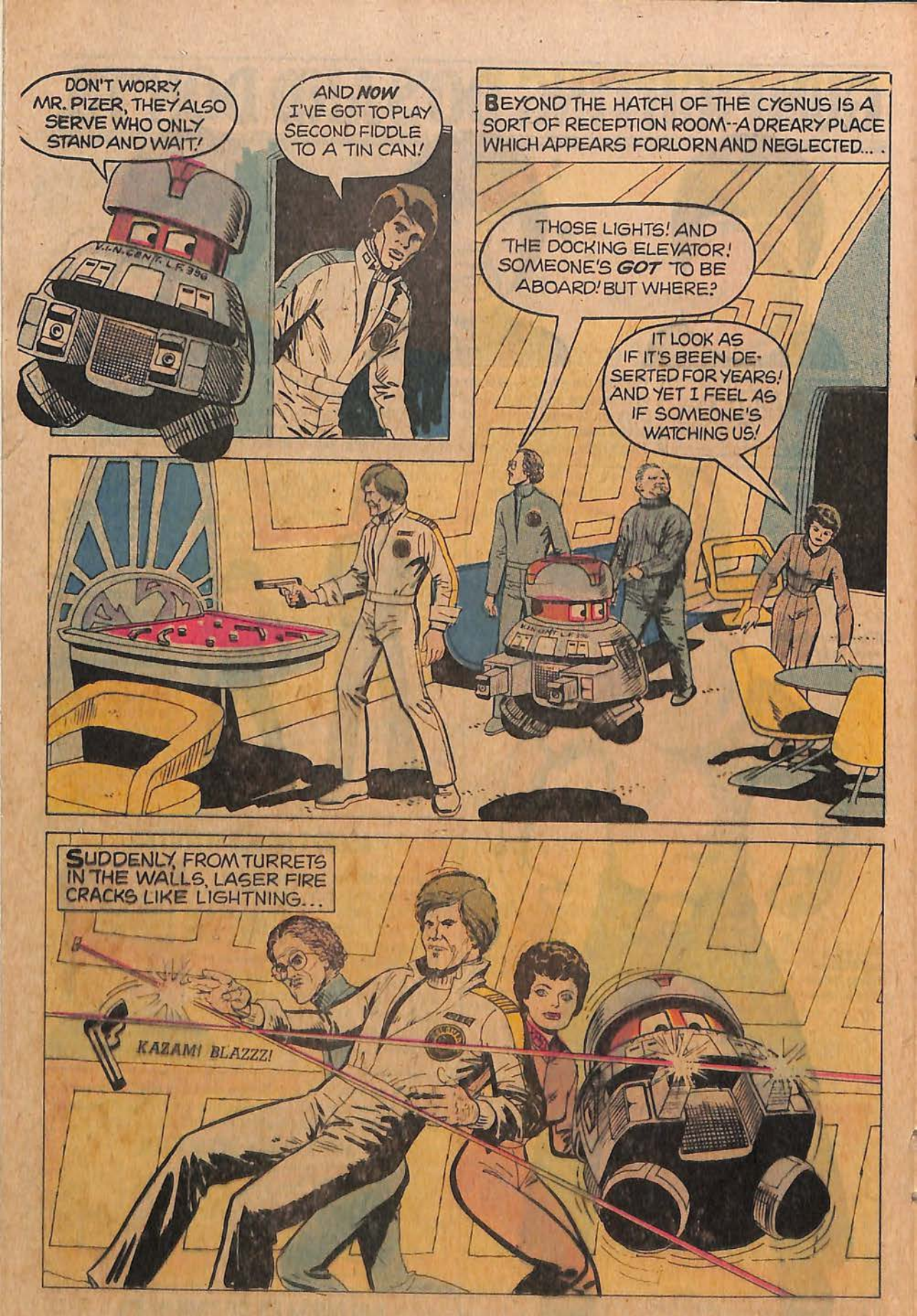
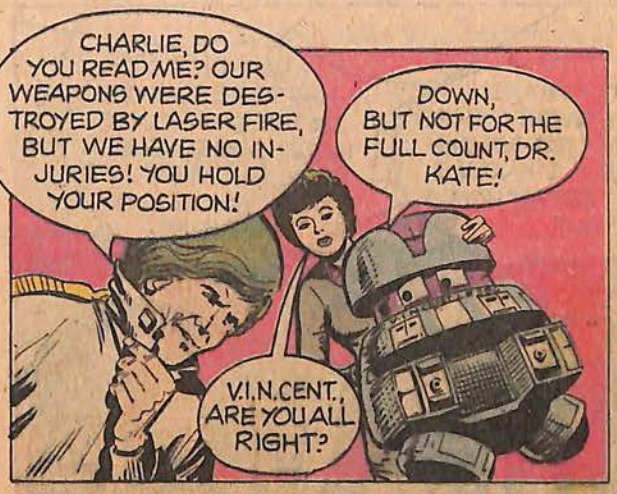
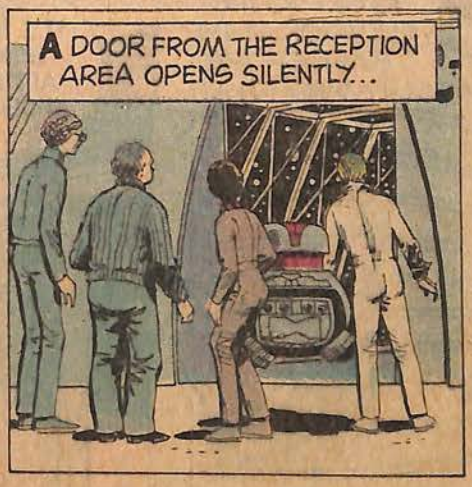
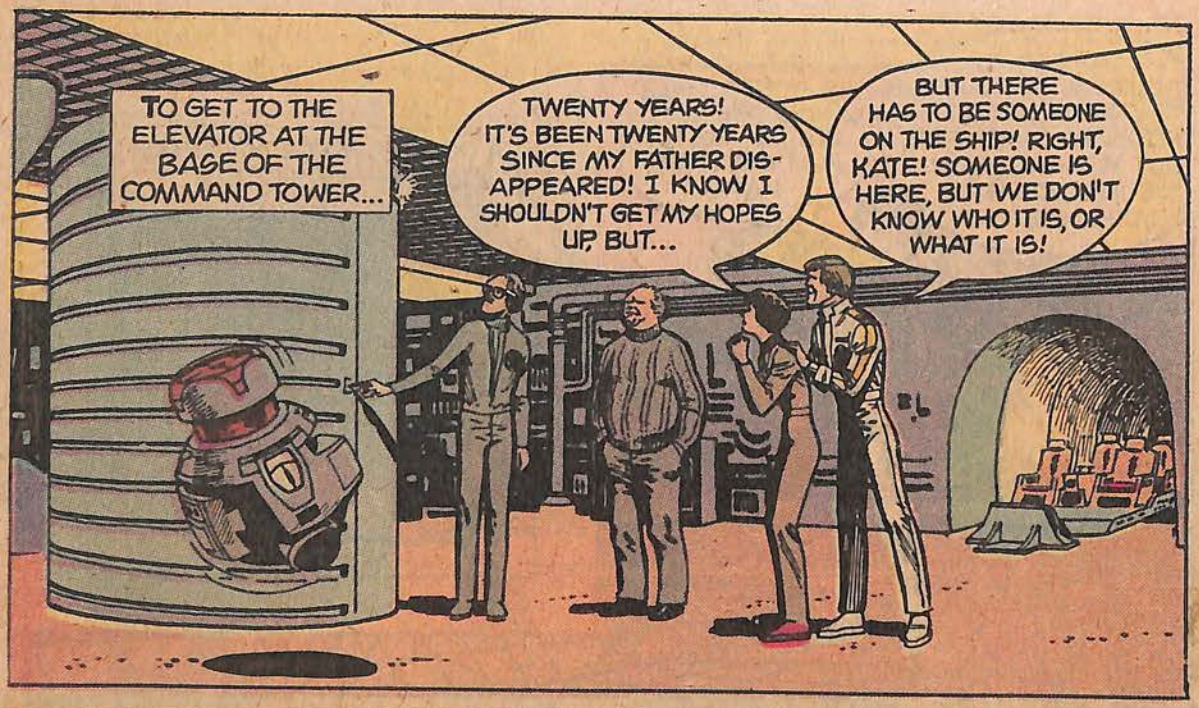

DON'T WORRY, MR. PIZER, THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT!
AND NOW I'VE GOT TO PLAY SECOND FIDDLE TO A TIN CAN!
BEYOND THE HATCH OF THE CYGNUS IS A SORT OF RECEPTION ROOM--A DREARY PLACE WHICH APPEARS FORLORN AND NEGLECTED...
THOSE LIGHTS! AND THE DOCKING ELEVATOR! SOMEONE'S GOT TO BE ABOARD! BUT WHERE?
IT LOOK AS IF IT'S BEEN DESERTED FOR YEARS! AND YET I FEEL AS IF SOMEONE'S WATCHING US!
SUDDENLY, FROM TURRETS IN THE WALLS, LASER FIRE CRACKS LIKE LIGHTNING...
KAZAM! BLAZZZ!

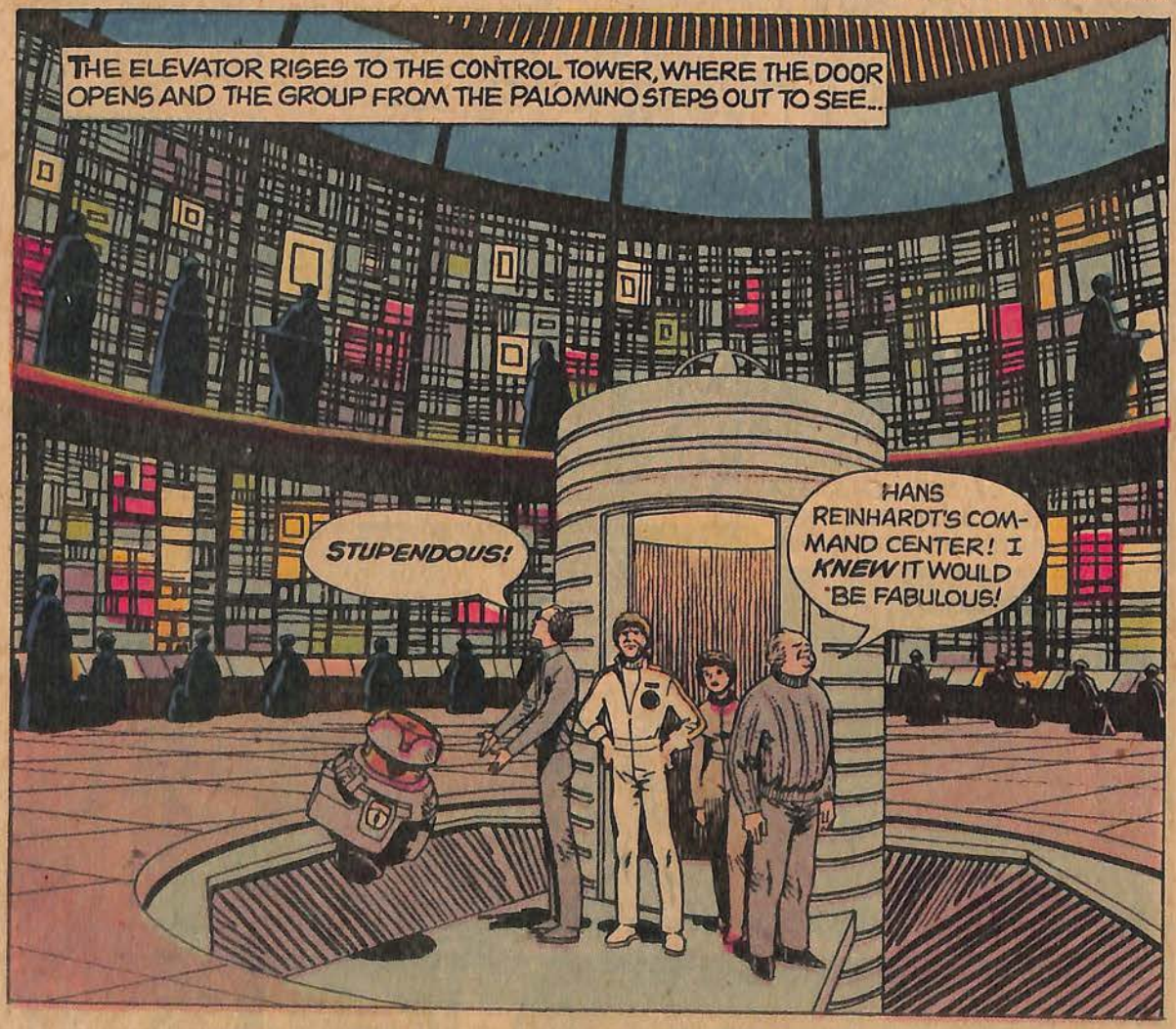



SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE EXPLORERS FROM THE PALOMINO VENTURE INTO THE MAIN CORRIDOR OF THE CYGNUS...

A CYLINDER ENCLOSING AN AIR CAR RUNS THE LENGTH OF THE GREAT SHIP, AND THE PALOMINO'S CREW USES THIS...


TO GET TO THE ELEVATOR AT THE BASE OF THE COMMAND TOWER...
TWENTY YEARS! IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE MY FATHER DISAPPEARED! I KNOW I SHOULDN'T GET MY HOPES UP, BUT...
BUT THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE ON THE SHIP! RIGHT, KATE! SOMEONE IS HERE, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS, OR WHAT IT IS!


THE ELEVATOR RISES TO THE CONTROL TOWER, WHERE THE DOOR OPENS AND THE GROUP FROM THE PALOMINO STEPS OUT TO SEE...
STUPENDOUS!
HANS REINHARDT'S COMMAND CENTER! I KNEW IT WOULD BE FABULOUS!

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It's **AMAZING!** Just add Sea-Monkey eggs to prepared water, look in the bowl and see **LIVE BABY SEA-MONKEYS** (Artemia) swimming around! Now simply **GROW** and **ENJOY** the most **ADORABLE,** entertaining pets you've ever owned!

## SO EAGER TO PLEASE – THEY CAN EVEN BE "TRAINED"

**WORLD-FAMOUS** Sea-Monkeys are **SO** full of surprises you can't stop watching them. They swim, play, scoot, race and do comical tricks and stunts. So easy to grow even an 8-year old child can do so without help. Raise a Sea-Monkey family consisting of Mom, Dad and their babies, in an ordinary milk glass. Because they eat so little and are so clean, they hardly need any care although they **LOVE** attention. If **YOU** like pets, you will **LOVE** owning **SEA-MONKEYS!** Best of all, we show you how to make them appear to obey your commands, follow a beam of light, do loop-the-loops and even seem to dance when you play a record or tape.

## SPECIAL:

With EVERY Sea-Monkey Kit we will include these valuable supplies: Sea-Monkey Growth Food; Feeding Spoon; Sea Plasma; a magnificent fully-illustrated Owners Manual of Sea-Monkey Care, Feeding, Raising, "Training" and even Breeding, AND our Famous GROWTH GUARANTEE – IN WRITING!

Sea-Monkey Aquarium **Dept. 96-L9**
200 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10010

I can hardly wait to get my pet Sea-Monkeys! Please send my Kit(s) to me with all supplies and **GUARANTEE.** I enclose $1.25 plus 50¢ for postage and handling for each kit. I must be 100% satisfied or you will refund my money.

Send _____ Kit(s) I enclose ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order Total amount enclosed $_____
(No C.O.D. orders please)

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Foreign Orders (except Canada) – $3.00 each, U.S. Currency

**MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE**

Caricatures shown not intended to depict *Artemia*

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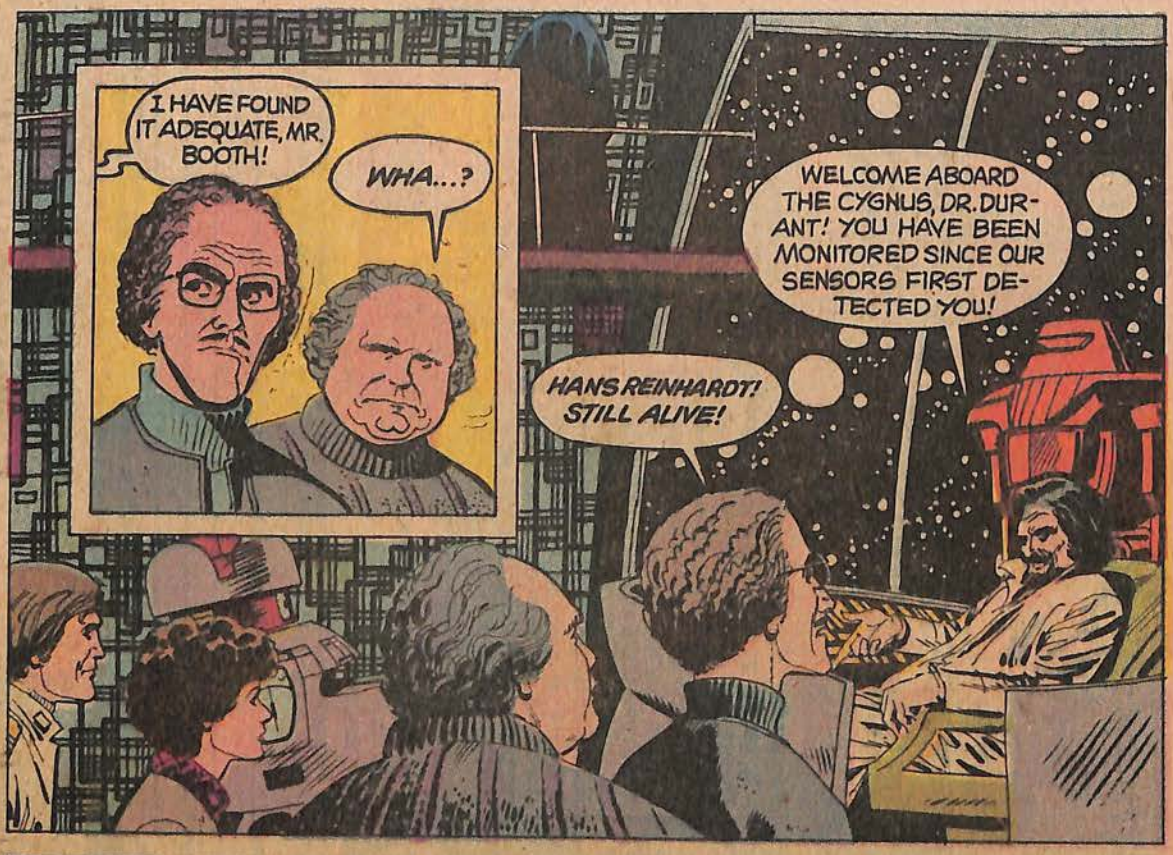

I HAVE FOUND IT ADEQUATE, MR. BOOTH!
WHA...?
WELCOME ABOARD THE CYGNUS, DR. DURANT! YOU HAVE BEEN MONITORED SINCE OUR SENSORS FIRST DETECTED YOU!
HANS REINHARDT! STILL ALIVE!

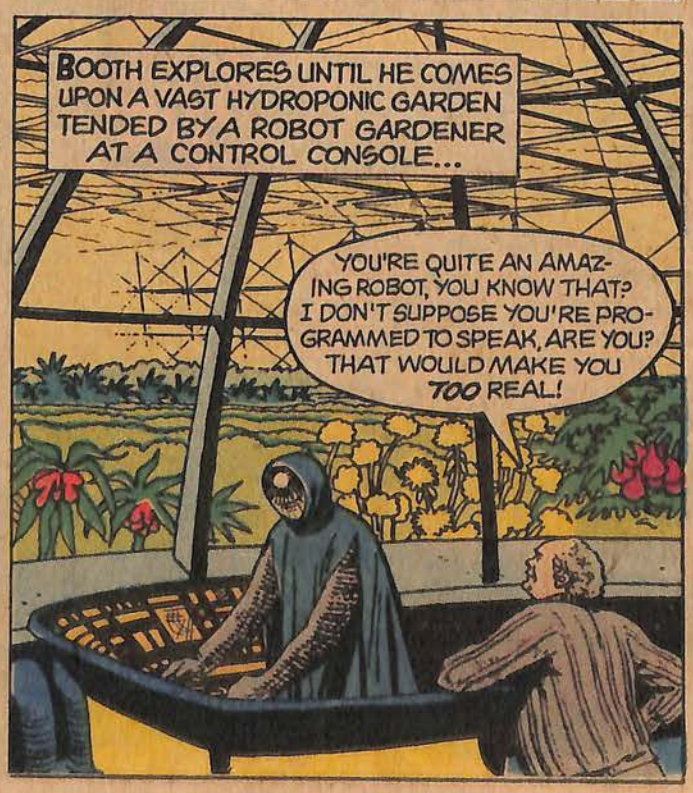
DR. REINHARDT, I'M KATE McCRAE! MY FATHER...
MY DEAR CHILD! I AM SO SORRY! YOUR FATHER WAS A MAN TO BE PROUD OF!

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS? THE REST OF THE CREW? ARE THOSE THE ONLY ONES LEFT?
THEN HE'S DEAD!
THOSE CREATURES UP THERE? THEY AREN'T CREWMEN! THEY'RE ROBOTS-- HUMANOIDS!

WE WERE ADRIFT--DISABLED AFTER WE ENCOUNTERED A FIELD OF METEORITES! FIRST OFFICER McCREA WAS KILLED! THEN THE MISSION WAS RECALLED TO EARTH! I CHOSE TO REMAIN WITH MY SHIP AND TOLD THE CREW TO ABANDON THE CYGNUS!
I GATHER THAT NONE OF THE CREW REACHED EARTH AND... AH, MR. PIZER! WON'T YOU JOIN US?
DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
MR. PIZER WAS DISARMED FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, DR. DURANT! MY ROBOTS ARE PROGRAMMED TO BE SUSPICIOUS IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS! BUT REST ASSURED, YOU ARE NOT PRISONERS! YOU ARE MY GUESTS!
THERE'S A WHOLE ARMY OF THOSE MECHANICAL GOONS ABOARD, AND NOBODY TOLD THEM WE'RE GUESTS!
I REGRET THAT A SLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM PREVENTED MY RESPONDING TO YOUR SIGNAL EARLIER, CAPTAIN HOLLAND! BUT NOW MAXIMILLIAN WILL TAKE YOU TO REQUISITION WHATEVER YOU NEED TO REPAIR YOUR SHIP!
BETTER BACK OFF, V.I.N. CENT.! YOU'RE OUTCLASSED THIS TIME!
MAXIMILLIAN LEADS THE WAY TO A SUPPLY ROOM STOCKED WITH LONG-UNUSED PARTS. THERE V.I.N.CENT. ENCOUNTERS A DUSTY OLD ROBOT NAMED B.O.B..
HOW DO YOU DO! I'M V.I.N.CENT. --396TH LABOR FORCE! I SEE BY YOUR MARKINGS THAT YOU'RE FROM THE OLD 28TH!
WE'LL NEED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DEMAND OXYGEN PRESSURE REGULATORS!

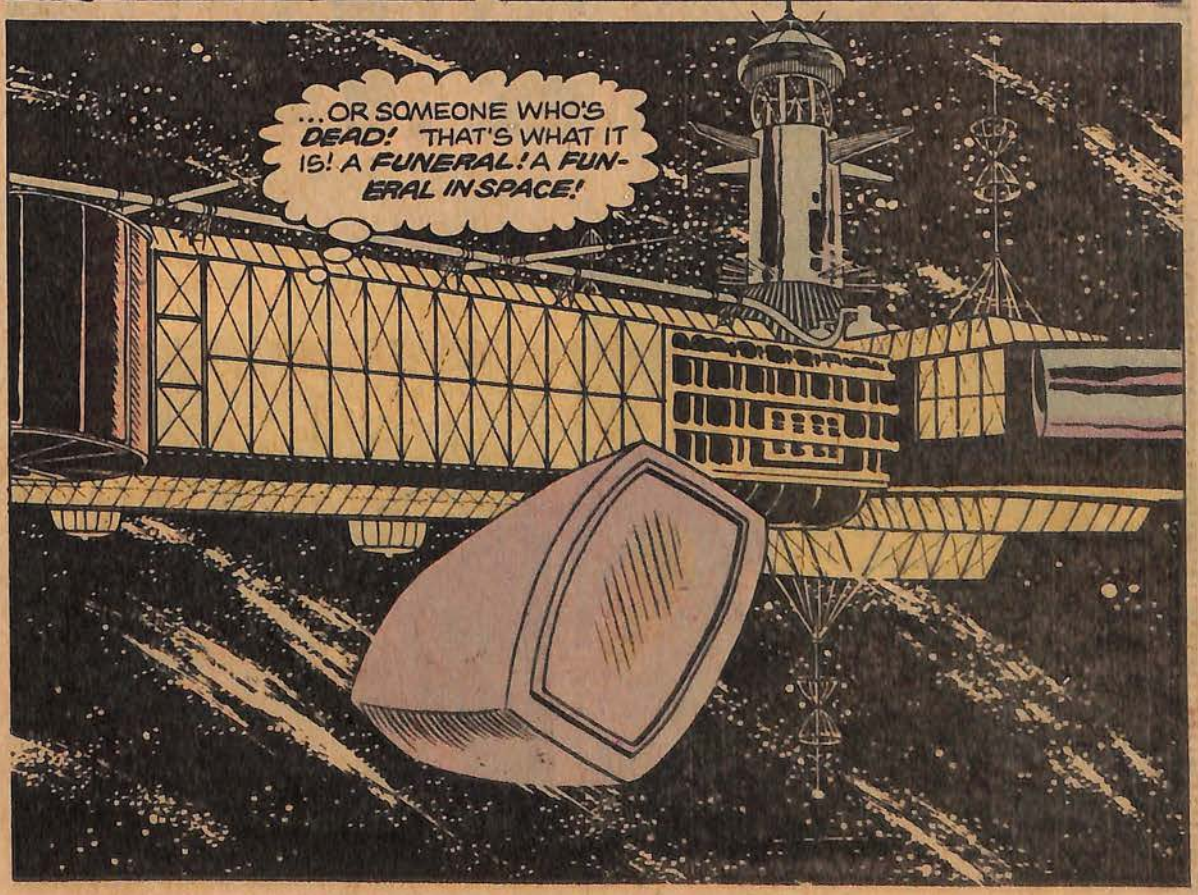
SAY, CHARLIE, WHILE YOU'RE GETTING THE PARTS, I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE PALOMINO AND START DISMANTLING THE REGULATOR!
THE CYGNUS ISN'T A CRIPPLED SHIP NOW. WE REPAIRED THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE METEORITE AND I HAVE DEVELOPED MY OWN SOURCE OF POWER, USING HYDROGEN AND MATTER-ANTI-MATTER! THERE'S ENOUGH ENERGY DOWN THERE TO SUPPLY ALL OF EARTH!
MEANWHILE, HANS REINHARDT IS PROUDLY CONDUCTING A GUIDED TOUR OF THE CYGNUS FOR KATE, DURANT AND BOOTH...

REINHARDT IS SO DELIGHTED TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE, THAT HE DOES NOT NOTICE BOOTH SLIPPING AWAY...
WE HAVE DEVELOPED ANTI-GRAVITY FORCES, OF COURSE, TO MAINTAIN OUR POSITION IN RELATION TO THE BLACK HOLE!


BOOTH EXPLORES UNTIL HE COMES UPON A VAST HYDROPONIC GARDEN TENDED BY A ROBOT GARDENER AT A CONTROL CONSOLE...
YOU'RE QUITE AN AMAZING ROBOT, YOU KNOW THAT? I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE PROGRAMMED TO SPEAK, ARE YOU? THAT WOULD MAKE YOU TOO REAL!

BUT WHEN THE ROBOT LEAVES THE CONTROLS...
WHAT? IT'S LIMPING! A ROBOT WITH A LIMP? AND TENDING THIS HUGE VEGETABLE PATCH? WHY IS IT SO BIG? WITH ONLY REINHARDT ABOARD, WHO NEEDS AN AGRICULTURAL STATION THIS SIZE?

WHILE BOOTH CONSIDERS THE PUZZLE OF THE LIMPING ROBOT, HOLLAND HAS COME UPON A GROUP OF HUMANOIDS INVOLVED IN A STRANGE RITUAL...
THAT'S ODD! THEY'RE ALL ROBOTS! BUT THEY LOOK AS IF THEY'RE HANDLING SOMEONE WHO IS VERY ILL OR...OR...


...OR SOMEONE WHO'S DEAD! THAT'S WHAT IT IS! A FUNERAL! A FUNERAL IN SPACE!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, WHEN THE REPAIRS TO THE OXYGEN LINES OF THE PALOMINO ARE WELL ALONG, THE VISITORS ACCEPT HANS REINHARDT'S INVITATION TO DINNER...

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL ROOM! AND SO... SO...

TRADITIONAL? YES! EVEN IN SPACE, THERE ARE TRADITIONS I ENJOY! IT IS PLEASANT TO DINE ONCE MORE WITH A LOVELY WOMAN! AND TONIGHT A TOAST IS IN ORDER! TONIGHT WE STAND ON THE BRINK OF A FEAT UNPARALLELED IN SPACE EXPLORATION!

BUT...BUT EVEN WITH THE ANTI-GRAVITY FORCE YOU'VE DEVELOPED, WON'T THE CYGNUS BE CRUSHED?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE INTOLERABLE HEAT IN THE BLACK HOLE?

DO YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU'VE ALREADY SENT THAT PROBE SHIP THROUGH THE BLACK HOLE?

OH, NO! THE PROBE SHIP HAS GONE ONLY TO THE EVENT HORIZON! WITHOUT THE ANTI-GRAVITY FORCE FIELD THAT PROTECTS THE CYGNUS, IT MIGHT BE CRUSHED IN THE BLACK HOLE!

THE COURSE I'VE CHOSEN FOR THE CYGNUS WILL TAKE THE SHIP THROUGH AT ITS OPTIMUM ANGLE OF ROTATION! THE VORTEX WILL CAUSE US TO MOVE AT INCREDIBLE SPEED, AND THAT ANGLE WILL SLINGSHOT US THROUGH--UNSCATHED!

# FUN FACTORY

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Fires real blanks! Extra loud explosion! 2" long. Barrel opens to load, hammer cocks & fires when trigger is pulled. Ramrod included!
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#306 Ammo-Pak 50c

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**FAKE BEER #675**
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Just a few drops on your skin... It works like you're really bleeding. Absolutely safe. Large tube.

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An amazing illusion! Apparently see thru bones, thru skin, thru clothes, etc. Thrill and embarrass your friends.
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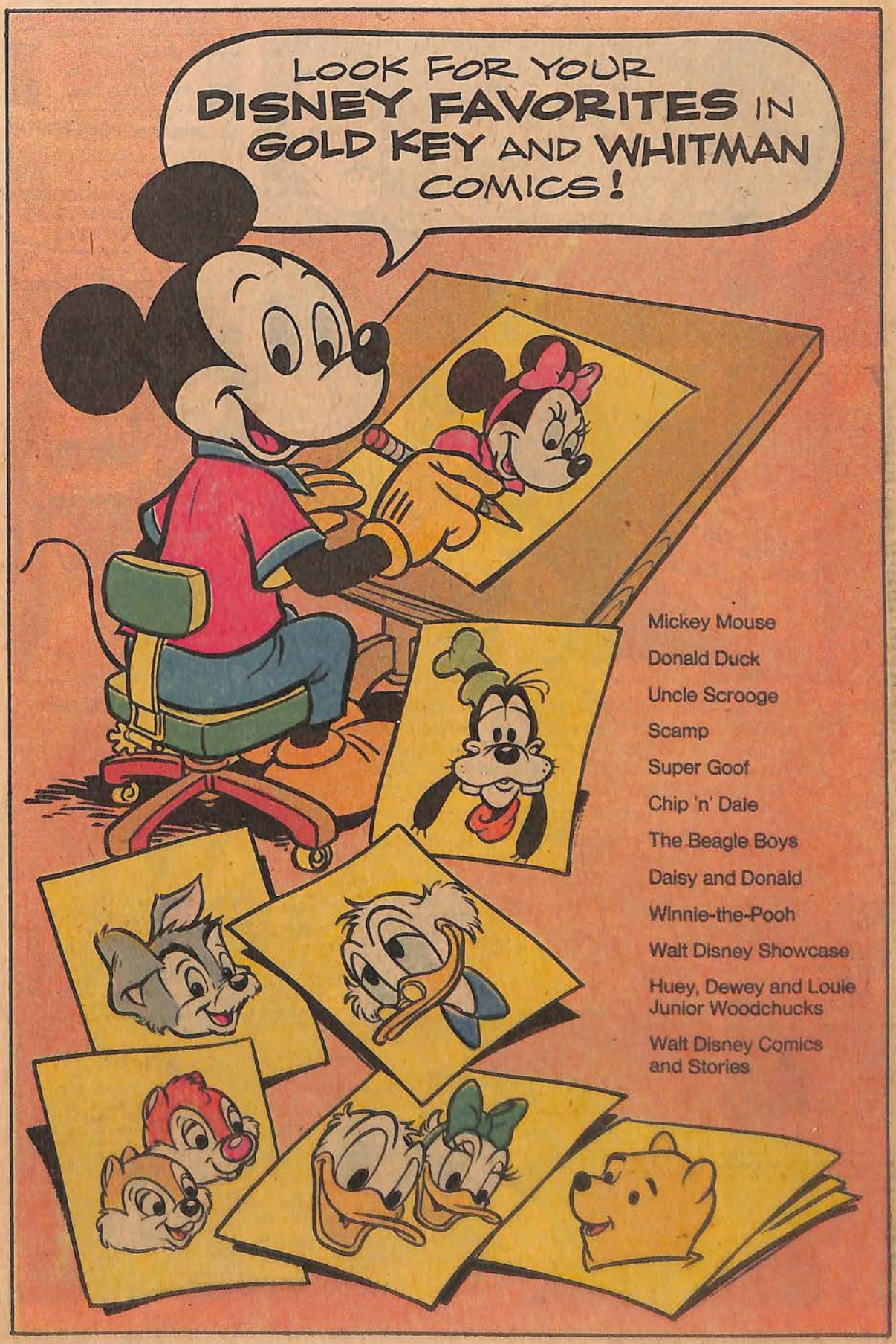
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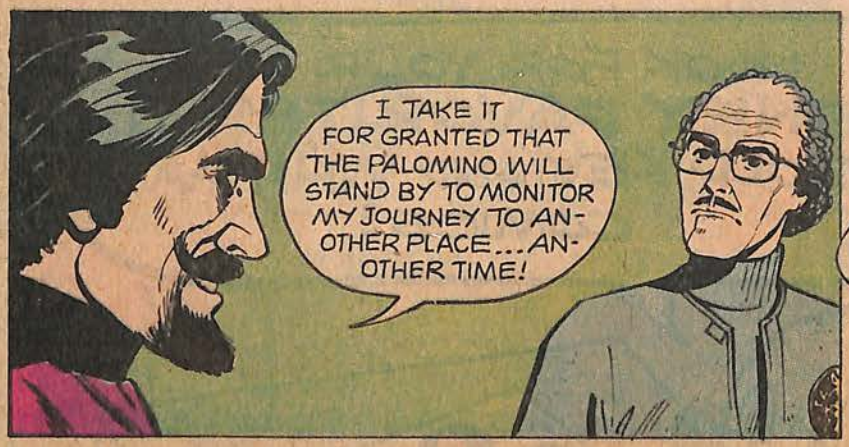

WHILE HANS REINHARDT HAS BEEN ASTOUNDING HIS HUMAN GUESTS IN THE DINING AREA OF THE CYGNUS, V.I.N.CENT. HAS DRIFTED INTO A RECREATION HALL WHERE OFF-DUTY ROBOTS ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES. THERE HE FINDS OLD B.O.B., THE BATTERED ROBOT WHO USUALLY CARES FOR THE PARTS STORAGE ROOM...

**NEXT ISSUE—THE THRILLING CONCLUSION!**

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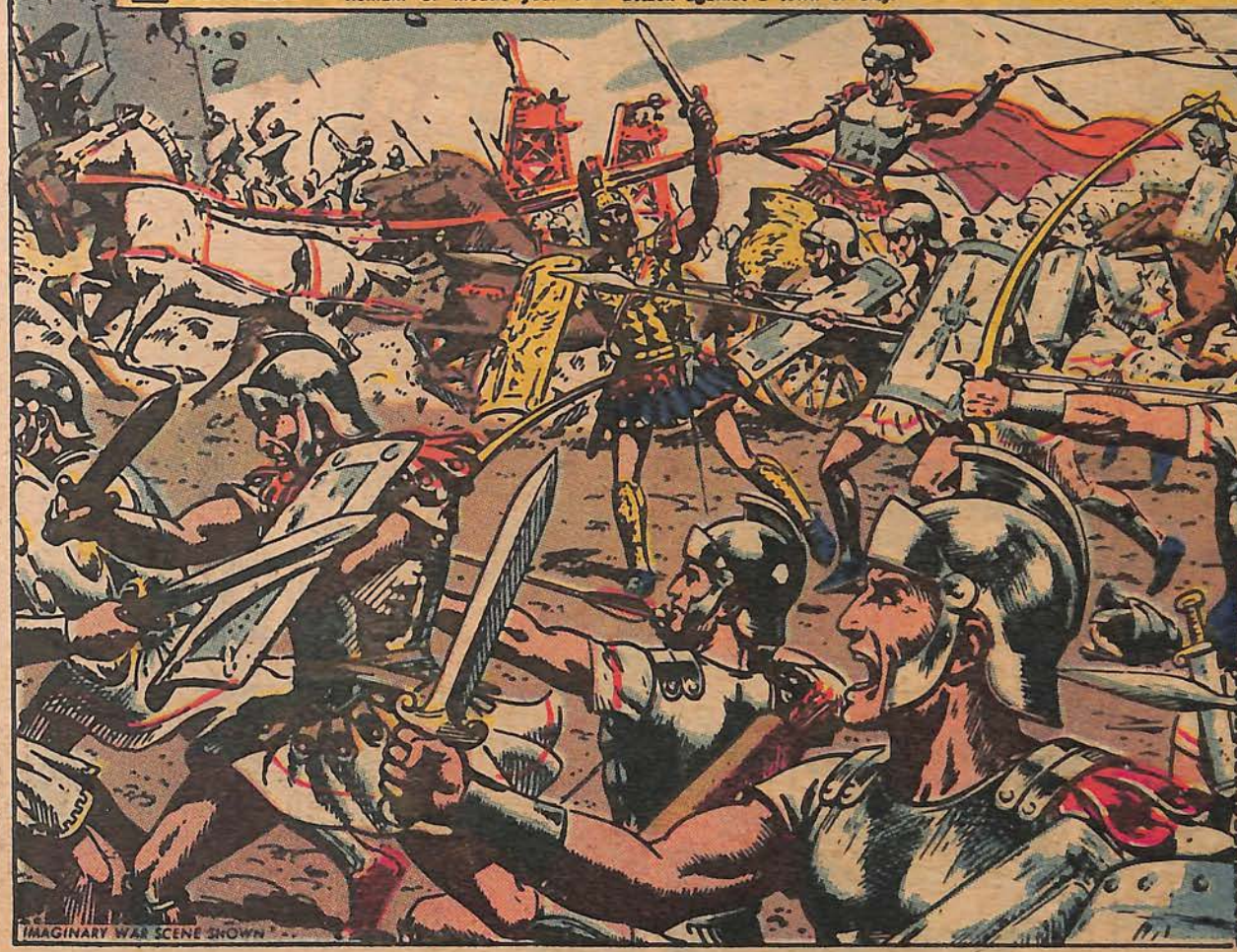

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- 4 Buglers

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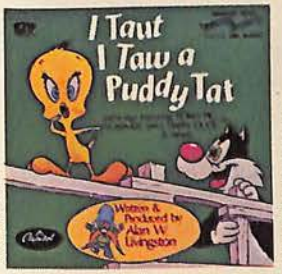


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**5** L6963 — I TAUT I TAW A PUDDY TAT AND OTHER SONGS with TWEETY, DAFFY DUCK, YOSEMITE SAM, PORKY PIG, and BOZO.

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9

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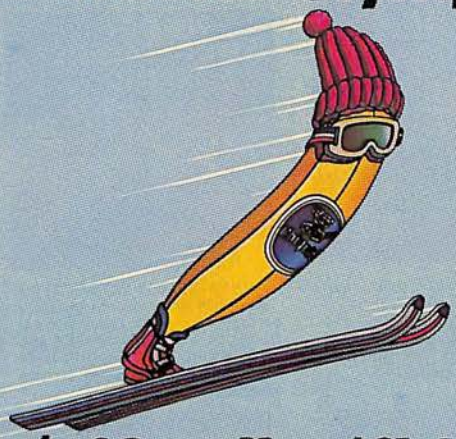

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